1: Gillin E-5 (1932-33) 1936 SR9 Carib SR9

the approach of reptiles. Parrots (kurewako) are frequent tenants of the houses; one of these birds at Sawari could speak several Carib phrases and realistically imitated the whining of a dog and the moans of a woman in sexual embrace, much to the amusement of the men. Corn birds (awashiwini), resembling in size and plumage the common American black bird, are taught to perch upon their owners' hands and necks, and are frequently to be found fluttering about the floors of the houses; at Sawari, one woman regularly on rainless days placed just outside her house a shallow dish full of water where the corn bird would come to bathe, fluttering and preening itself, and not at all abashed by the presence of people. Mention has already been made of the treatment accorded to hunting dogs. Care is also taken to provide for the comfort of the bitches when littering; one afternoon in Miller's house at Sawari, the whole family assisted for several hours at the accouchement of a bitch; a walisha lined with leaves was placed on a shallow depression in the floor; the children looked on and assisted the dog to be comfortable during the process of parturition. The Spanish cadouri is a small black and white bird (pipishi) about the size of a sparrow, greatly prized for its friendly ways. These birds are regularly fed on crumbs of cassava bread. Chickens (korotoko) are present at most of the settlements; they all appear to be a mongrel black and white fighting breed, and have probably been introduced from Venezuela in fairly recent times; neither the eggs nor the flesh of these fowls is eaten; nor do the Indians show any interest in cock-fighting; the chickens are kept simply as luxury pets, and much time is spent in admiring and boasting of the form, color, and feathering of the birds. Young bush hogs (abuya) are occasionally kept as pets and eaten when they attain maturity; in several cases I found them tied to the house posts with bush-rope, "because they bite people." Toucans (kwiaking) are favorite pets. The kibihi is a small furry animal, somewhat resembling a racoon, often found as a pet around Carib houses. Pet monkeys of several small species frequently inhabit the trees about the house, coming down to be fed by the human beings.

Brooms of brush are used for sweeping out the floors of the houses, although, regrettably, this function is performed too infrequently to suit the tastes of a European. Garbage and refuse are carried into the bush near the settlement, where they are

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364 quickly cleared away by insects. As a matter of fact, decaying organic matter about a settlement is not as much of a problem as might be expected, since any such rubbage is quickly disposed of by the swarms of ants which appear from nowhere as if for this very purpose.

514 Each household has its own latrine in the bush near the house. A tree is cut down, on which one squats. Personal cleaning is done with a stick. Men urinate in a standing position, women squatting. The functions of elimination are performed in strict privacy except at sprees when people are drunk.

For a general picture of a Carib village and the relative economic status of its inhabitants as shown by possessions kept in their houses, the reader is referred to our discussion of the village of Sawari.

CONTAINERS FOR LIQUIDS

415 In this chapter we shall devote ourself to a brief survey of the several types of vessels used by the Caribs which are capable of holding liquids. Basketry is described elsewhere.

317 **Pottery.**[1] Clay for the making of pottery is obtained in a variety of locations. The best clay is found, however, in the beds of creeks, near their upper reaches, where the force of the water has not been sufficient to overlay the material with deposits of stone and rubble.

323 [462] The making of pottery is woman's work, and the women seek the supplies of clay when it is needed. No special time of year or month is necessarily reserved for this purpose, although the dry season is most auspicious because at that time it is more convenient to go into the bush in search of supplies, and also the drying of the clay and baking of the pots can be more dextrously handled. Furthermore, during high water the beds of clay are frequently submerged. The clay is dug moist and brought back to the house in walishas. It is usually deposited on the rack or loft and allowed to dry, a process which may require a couple of weeks.

[412] When it is dry the clay is pounded into a powder with a wooden club. Apparently, natural ingredients are relied upon for temper-

[1] tumai'ini, pottery making; arinyo, pottery clay.